

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

5th April 2017

REPORT AUTHOR: Caroline Evans, Business Continuity & Risk Management Officer

SUBJECT: Update Report on Risk Management

REPORT FOR: Information

1.0 Summary

1.1 An update has been requested by the Audit Committee on Risk Management within the Council, following a report to the previous Committee on 3rd February 2017.

1.2 This report outlines the position statement for Risk Management within the Council, and progress made since the last committee.

2.0 Background

2.1 We are in a process of continuously improving and updating our approach to risk management to help us to better understand and manage the risks the Council is facing, and to increase the likelihood of achieving our objectives. Risk management is a core management discipline that supports organisational delivery. The risks that the organisation faces are changing all the time, so the art of good risk management is to combine planning for what we know might happen with preparation for unknown situations, and to safeguard the organisation and in turn make it more resilient.

2.2 A process of implementing risk management in service and directorate management teams has been implemented over the last two years, to review and update service and corporate risks, and to ensure that control measures are identified. The risk registers are now reviewed and updated quarterly to ensure that the risk registers are dynamic and remain up-to-date. Risk registers are regularly reported to Portfolio Holders, Management Team and Strategic Overview Board.

3.0 Progress

3.1 The Cabinet continues to view the corporate risk register on a quarterly basis via the Strategic Overview Board, and the Leader is updated on the progress of risk management on a monthly basis, as part of his role as Portfolio Holder for Risk Management. Risk Management is now a recognised component of the decision making process.

3.2 The Council has been subject to two out of three Themed Reviews, in addition to a risk-based assessment, by Wales Audit Office (WAO) as part of the Corporate Assessment process. Action plans are in hand to respond to the findings within these reviews.

- 3.3** The Council has been shortlisted for an award for ‘Leadership’ at the All Wales Continuous Improvement Community Awards 2017, for development and implementation of the Impact Assessment Toolkit. The event celebrates recognition of the work being carried out by public service continuous improvement practitioners throughout Wales, and the awards aim to celebrate success and provide the opportunity to spread good practice across public services.
- 3.4** The award is intended to recognise excellence in leadership, demonstrated by a team or individual. Successful applicants will demonstrate vision, strategic leadership and influence at an organisational-wide level, with specific focus on how their leadership skills have led and delivered successful change. The award will recognise where leaders have inspired and motivated people, supported creative thinking and new ways of working, constructively challenged the status quo and demonstrated a willingness to take tough decisions. The awards ceremony is being held on 24th May 2017.
- 3.5** Impact Assessment training has been scheduled to be delivered to officers on a quarterly basis ongoing. Officers are now able to book onto the training via Trent, and a record of their attendance at the training will also be recorded on Trent. Additionally, the training will also be built into the Member Development Programme.
- 3.6** Impact Assessments were co-ordinated for all of the 2017/18 savings identified as part of the budget setting process. Each of the Impact Assessments were reviewed by the Cabinet Sub Group, and then made available electronically to the Finance Scrutiny Panel for further review. The final Impact Assessments were then shared with all Members, and accompanied the budget papers when they were presented to Council in February for sign-off.

4.0 Further Work

- 4.1** Engagement with SMTs and DMTs will continue, to further embed the risk management process throughout the Council. Services will review their risks ongoing on a quarterly basis, and will report this information at the Quarterly Performance Review meetings, as well as to Strategic Overview Board.
- 4.2** The Business Continuity & Risk Management Officer will continue to meet with the Leader on a monthly basis to ensure that the corporate risk register remains up-to-date with the appropriate mitigating controls identified.
- 4.3** Actions identified in the Risk Management action plan will be delivered, and progress against delivery of the action plan will be reported through the Internal Audit Working Group.
- 4.4** The Council is yet to receive the third and final thematic review as part of the Corporate Assessment process. We are currently awaiting further details and the project brief from WAO setting out the scope of the review of “*Transformational Change*”, although WAO has indicated that the national review is due to be rolled out from the end of May.

5.0 Business Continuity Management (BCM)

5.1 Attendance at the Dyfed Powys Local Resilience Forum (DPLRF) continues. This work has helped to form good working relationships and a peer support network with colleagues within the DPLRF which will allow the sharing of information and approaches taken in other areas of work including Risk Management.

5.2 The BCM Group continues to meet on a quarterly basis. The Group is a forum which enables BCM Champions to interact and share knowledge, as well as identifying any inter-dependencies.

6.0 Statutory Officers

6.1 The Strategic Director, Resources (S151 Officer) has made the following comment:

“The Strategic Director Resources (S151 Officer) welcomes the continuing improvements to the Council’s approach to risk management. The shortlisting for a national award demonstrates the distance travelled in a relatively short period of time.”

6.2 The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows:

Comment to follow.

7.0 Future Status of the Report

7.1 Not applicable

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
That the Audit Committee notes the progress being made by the Business Continuity & Risk Management Officer in increasing awareness of Risk Management and BCM throughout the organisation.	To ensure the adequate management of risk, and safeguard the Council.

Relevant Policy (ies):	
Within Policy:	Y
Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	Not Applicable
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	

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